

 <p><b>NEW ORLEANS</b> BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY ANSWERING GOD'S CALL</p>	<p><b>NT OVERVIEW AND BACKGROUNDS</b> <b>BISR9302-01 / NTST9301-01</b> <b>New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary</b> <b>Division of Biblical Studies</b> <b>Fall 2022, 9:00-11:00pm Fridays (8/19, 9/9,</b> <b>10/21, 11/4)</b></p>
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*Office Hours*

To schedule an appointment please contact me by email or in person. I thoroughly enjoy meeting with students, so please do not hesitate to schedule a coffee or lunch meeting with me.

Office: Dodd Building, Room 207  
 Mondays– 2:00-4:00pm  
 Tuesdays– 2:00-4:00pm

**Mission Statement**

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

**Course Description**

This Ph.D. supervised reading colloquium covers a variety of topics essential for a complete understanding of the New Testament and its interpretation. The student is expected to read thoroughly the assigned material and to participate actively in the discussions of the material. Written reviews and/or summaries of the works are expected. This colloquium addresses specifically New Testament overview and backgrounds.

**Course Grading**

This is a pass/fail course. If students complete the required reading and written assignments as evidenced by their contribution to the class discussion, they will pass. If students fail to complete the assignments or cannot not demonstrate an adequate understanding of the reading, they will fail.

## Student Learning Outcomes

The student should be able

- to summarize accurately the major thesis, method of development, and strengths/weaknesses of each assigned book
- to understand, critically evaluate, and assess the content of each assigned book
- to communicate clearly those observations to the professor and to other colloquium members
- to evaluate the contribution of the book in light of other work in the field.

## COURSE TEXTS

Greek New Testament

Bockmuehl, Markus. *Seeing the Word: Refocusing New Testament Study*. Studies in Theological Interpretation. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2006.

Brown, Jeannine K. *Scripture as Communication: Introducing Biblical Hermeneutics*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2007.

Green, Joel B. and Lee Martin McDonald, eds. *The World of the New Testament: Cultural, Social, and Historical Contexts*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2013.

McKnight, Scot and Nijay K. Gupta, eds. *The State of New Testament Studies: A Survey of Recent Research*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2019.

Josephus, Flavius. *The Wars of the Jews*.

*The Old Testament Apocrypha*. (See the NRSV)

Vermes, Geza. *The Dead Sea Scrolls in English*. 7th ed., Penguin, 2012.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

**Reading** – Students will complete all reading assignments (see schedule below). These assignments comprise 40% of the final grade.

**Notes and Talking Points** – Students will take notes on key points of the readings for the purpose of discussion. Students should pay particular attention to the authors argument, evidence, and contribution to the field. The student must represent the author accurately but also should demonstrate critical assessment and reflection on specific details. Students are to submit these notes for the reading required according to the meeting schedule (see below). These will make up 25% of the course grade.

**Discussion** – Discussion at the PhD level is vital, necessary, and beneficial to all. Each student is expected to discuss the selected books in detail. Students should be able to discuss specific books without using notes, but He or she may use their notes and talking points in a limited manner. The discussion is worth 35% of the course grade.

Unless of an emergency, **no papers will be accepted late.**

#### ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Plagiarism is the misrepresentation of another's work as one's own. When the professor concludes that a student has plagiarized an assignment, the student will receive the grade of zero for the assignment, and the office of the Vice President for Student Affairs will be notified about the incident.

#### SPECIAL NEEDS

Individuals with documented impairments who may need special circumstances for exams, classroom participation, or assignments should contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester in order for special arrangements to be considered.

#### CLASS SCHEDULE

Date	Class Topic and Chapter
Friday 8/19 9:00-11:00 am	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Hermeneutics</b></p> Bockmuehl, Markus. <i>Seeing the Word: Refocusing New Testament Study</i> . Studies in Theological Interpretation. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2006.  Brown, Jeannine K. <i>Scripture as Communication: Introducing Biblical Hermeneutics</i> . Grand Rapids: Baker, 2007.
Friday 9/9 9:00-11:00 am	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>New Testament Studies</b></p> McKnight, Scot and Nijay K. Gupta, eds. <i>The State of New Testament Studies: A Survey of Recent Research</i> . Grand Rapids: Baker, 2019.
Friday 10/21 9:00-11:00 am	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>New Testament World</b></p> Green, Joel B. and Lee Martin McDonald, eds. <i>The World of the New Testament: Cultural, Social, and Historical Contexts</i> . Grand Rapids: Baker, 2013.
Friday 11/4 9:00-11:00 am	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Primary Texts</b></p> Josephus, Flavius. <i>The Wars of the Jews</i> . <i>The Old Testament Apocrypha</i> . (See the NRSV)

Vermes, Geza. <i>The Dead Sea Scrolls in English</i> . 7th ed., Penguin, 2012. (Focusing on the Peshet and Interpretive texts, rather than the biblical texts)
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Due to the nature of the course schedule, it is recommended that you create a reading schedule to space out the reading over the course of the semester.

## **SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

### NT Introduction & Methods

Brown, Jeannine K. *Scripture as Communication: Introducing Biblical Hermeneutics*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2007.

Brown, Raymond. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. Doubleday, 1997.

Koester, Helmut. *New Testament Introduction* (2 vols.). Fortress, 1982.

McKnight, Scot and Nijay K. Gupta, eds. *The State of New Testament Studies: A Survey of Recent Research*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2019.

Osborne, Grant. *The Hermeneutical Spiral*. Rev. and Expanded Ed., InterVarsity, 2006.

Porter, Stanley, and Beth Stovell. Editors. *Biblical Interpretation: Five Views*. InterVarsity, 2012

Wright, N. T. and Michael Bird, *The New Testament in Its World: An Introduction to the History, Literature, and Theology of the First Christians*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2019.

### NT Original Sources

Josephus, Flavius. *The Wars of the Jews*.

*The Old Testament Apocrypha*. (See the NRSV)

Suetonius, *The Twelve Caesars*. Trans. by Michael Grant, Penguin Classics, Viking Press, 1991.

Vermes, Geza. *The Dead Sea Scrolls in English*. 7th ed., Penguin, 2012.

Lightfoot, J. B. Edited by Michael Holmes. *The Apostolic Fathers: Greek Texts and English Translations*. Revised Edition. Baker, 1999.

### Other Backgrounds & Context

Green, Joel B. and Lee Martin McDonald, eds. *The World of the New Testament: Cultural, Social, and Historical Contexts*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2013.

Jeremias, Joachim. *Jerusalem in the Time of Jesus*. Fortress, 1969.

Sanders, E. P. *Judaism: Practice and Belief, 63 BCE - 66 CE*. Trinity, 1992

Helyer, Larry. *Exploring Jewish Lit. of the Second Temple Period*. Intersivity, 2002.

Evans, Craig A *Ancient Texts for New Testament Studies* . Baker Academic, 2012.

Mason, Steven M. *Josephus and the New Testament*. Hendrickson, 2003.